



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Volume 5, Number 2



A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary Constituents

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) consists of an area off the coast of California of approximately 1,113 square nautical miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California.

A fertile combination of warm and cool currents in this area results in a great variety of plants and animals including kelp forests, fish and invertebrates, pinnipeds, cetaceans and sea birds. The sanctuary also has a wealth of maritime heritage resources including Chumash Native American artifacts and over 100 historic shipwrecks. Human uses in the area include commercial and recreational fishing, marine wildlife viewing, boating, diving, kayaking, maritime shipping, nearby offshore oil and gas development, research and monitoring, and numerous educational activities.

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MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) staff continue to analyze and respond to comments received on the Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS). As staff move ahead with drafting responses to comments, consulting with National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) headquarters and West Coast Region staff and leadership as needed, the draft documents are being modified into a Final Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement.

As reported at previous Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings, the NMSP plans to issue a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, likely this spring, as a necessary step toward completion of the management plan revision process. CINMS staff have been working closely with the NMSP West Coast Region to finalize the documents for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) review and clearance. These supplemental documents will be released in order to ensure that the public has adequate information and opportunity to comment on the possibility of sanctuary regulation of graywater and sewage discharges from large vessels (300+ gross registered tons), and in light of the possibility of inconsistency between the sanctuary's preferred alternative discharge regulation -- *continued on next page*

Window on the Sanctuary

CINMS dive team takes a break during a REEF fish survey off of East Anacapa Island to celebrate NOAA's 200th Anniversary. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



-- and the recently enacted California Clean Coast Act. The supplemental documents will be made available for public review and comment, and comments received will be considered and integrated into the Final Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, and a Final Rule.

Sanctuary staff will continue to provide updates on the Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Final Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Final Rule at upcoming Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings and via the sanctuary's web site: channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/overview.html.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Marine Reserves Process

NOAA Releases Final Environmental Impact Statement

On April 20th, NOAA released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) detailing its decision to establish marine reserves and a marine conservation area in the sanctuary. The proposed regulatory changes are aimed at protecting marine habitats and sensitive species, and would complement an existing network of marine reserves established by the state of California in 2003. Two types of zones are being established: within marine reserves, all extractive activities and injury to sanctuary resources would be prohibited; within the marine conservation area, commercial and recreational lobster fishing, and recreational fishing for pelagic species would be allowed, while all other extraction and injury would be prohibited. Proposed sanctuary regulation changes are presented and analyzed in the FEIS. NOAA intends to make a final decision with regard to this action in July, 2007. Once completed, the combined state-federal marine zoning network will provide comprehensive protection to approximately 22% or 242 square nautical miles of the sanctuary.

To get a copy of the FEIS:

request a hard copy or CD-Rom by sending an email to cinmsreserves.feis@noaa.gov; or download the document at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/marineres/main.html>.

****You can help us conserve government funds and paper by downloading these documents or requesting a CD-ROM.****

Lost Fishing Gear Removed from California Piers

CINMS NOAA Divers assisted the University of California Davis (UCD) SeaDoc Society (a program of the UCD Wildlife Health Center) with monofilament and fishing gear recovery at the Goleta Pier. Part of the California Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project, divers and topside support personnel removed fishing line, discarded fishhooks, and other gear from the pilings of the Goleta pier. Lost fishing gear under piers can be a serious wildlife hazard, as was evidenced by two dead birds found hanging and entangled in discarded monofilament fishing line on the underside of the Goleta Pier. The dive team consisted of Claire Fackler (NMSP West Coast Education Liaison), Lt. Katherine Peet (CINMS Operations Officer), and Ben Waltenberger (CINMS Physical Scientist), along with Jesse Altstatt and Penny Owens of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, and volunteers Carl Gwinn and Paul Weaklim of the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). Jennifer Renzullo of UCD led the team in the gear removal. Divers, as well as kayakers and snorkelers, used knives and shears to remove fishing gear from the pier pilings.



NOAA divers help with the Lost Fishing Gear Removal Project at Goleta Pier.

Jennifer Renzullo of the SeaDoc society led the dive team and provided pre-dive instructions (inset). Photos: Carl Gwinn.

The project is targeting piers all along the California coast. It includes an educational component, and is working with California piers to educate anglers on the hazards of discarded gear, as well as working with the piers to install wildlife-safe bins to discard monofilament line and other fishing gear. The project is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation,

NOAA's Marine Debris Program, the California Ocean Protection Council, and the California State Coastal Conservancy. For more information go to:
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whc/mehp/derelictgear.html.

Cooperative Enforcement Meeting

Sanctuary staff hosted a cooperative enforcement meeting on Thursday, March 22nd at CINP headquarters. The purposes of the meeting were to introduce the new NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Agent, Roxanne Behtash, and her supervisor Special-Agent-in-Charge Don Master, to sanctuary staff, the sanctuary site, resource protection issues, and to discuss the sanctuary's enforcement program. The sanctuary's National Park Service and California Department of Fish and Game enforcement partners joined the meeting and provided an overview of their enforcement programs and a tour of the California Department of Fish and Game patrol vessel *Swordfish*. Following the orientation, the group went on an overflight of the sanctuary, park, and marine reserves in Fish and Game's Partnavia aircraft.

Emergency Response

CINMS Safety Drills and Training

On March 9th, sanctuary staff spent the day aboard the R/V *Shearwater* conducting at-sea safety drills. Drills included man overboard, abandon ship, fire (in the galley), and SCUBA dive accident drills. On March 8th, most staff attended CPR/First Aid/ Automated External Defibrillator and Oxygen First Aid training.

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

At a public meeting on March 16th, the Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council) voted (12 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain) to send a letter to Chris Mobley (CINMS Superintendent) suggesting a course of action for improving public awareness of marine reserve and conservation area boundaries within CINMS, specifically with regard to points of intersection with island shorelines. Based on considerable work by a subcommittee of four members (Merit McCrea, Capt. David Bacon, Scott Dunn, and Dan Powell), the Advisory Council letter advises CINMS to collaborate with agency partners to conduct "further survey research, both with high precision GPS [or global positioning system] units and photo documentation, to accurately determine where the currently defined

California Department of Fish and Game State Marine Protected Area boundaries intersect the island shorelines." The Advisory Council letter also recommends that "once survey results have been post processed, an investigation should be performed to ascertain if it is possible to slightly refine (to the hundredth minute) the zone geographic coordinates to coincide with natural landmarks at each location." A response from CINMS to the Advisory Council recommendations is forthcoming. More information about the Advisory Council's discussions on this issue can be found on line here:
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>
(hint: click on the link for the March 16, 2007 meeting).

Research Activities Panel (RAP) Meets to Discuss Research and Monitoring in the Sanctuary

The RAP (an Advisory Council working group) met in person on February 28th to discuss a variety of science and monitoring issues. The RAP reviewed the Conservation Working Group's Open Ocean Aquaculture Draft Report, which makes recommendations for safeguarding against potential environmental impacts from aquaculture in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Researchers provided presentations on deep water monitoring techniques (remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, and submersible surveys) and RAP members discussed and compared results.

Representatives of the California Department of Fish and Game provided a summary of results from a 2006 abalone survey at San Miguel Island, a project for which the RAP has provided technical advice.

Finally, the group reviewed and provided comments on a draft report that outlines monitoring activities in the sanctuary, in preparation for the 2008 five-year marine reserves evaluation. The meeting was well attended by RAP members and the public.

VESSEL & AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

Vessel Program Support

During the reporting period the sanctuary's research vessel (R/V) *Shearwater* completed the following activities:

Research and Monitoring

- Ambient noise-level monitoring and marine mammal observations with researchers from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, 25-26 February and 26-27 March.
- On-going water quality monitoring in the Santa Barbara Channel with scientists from UCSB, 06 March and 11 April.
- Rocky intertidal monitoring with scientists and rangers from the National Park Service, 14-17 March.
- White Abalone habitat and population monitoring, including researchers and divers from the National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Oxnard College, and CINMS, 04-05 April.
- Cassin's Auklet population monitoring on San Miguel/Prince Island and Santa Cruz Island, with researchers from the Montrose Trustee Council, U.S. Geological Survey, and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, 09 April.

Education and Public Outreach

- Experiential training in ROV piloting and water quality sampling with students and instructors from Cabrillo High School and Aquarium, 02 March.
- Continuing Education training for docents and volunteers from the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and Outdoor Santa Barbara Visitor's Center, 20 March.
- LiMPETS (Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students) intertidal surveys at Frenchy's Cove, Anacapa Island with instructors from the Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) Academy, and students from Carpinteria Middle School, 30 March.

Maintenance and Annual Inspection

- During the week of 16 April, *Shearwater* completed various maintenance activities and preparing for an operational ramp-up.

- Finally, *Shearwater's* mandatory annual Fleet Safety Inspection, originally scheduled for 15-16 February, has been re-scheduled for 16-17 May.

For details on any of the projects listed above, please refer to the relevant section in this Superintendent's Report.

Aircraft Operations

As reported in January and March, the sanctuary's SeaWolf aircraft remains grounded due to a needed engine overhaul. On April 13th Lt. Julie Helmers (CINMS Executive Officer and pilot) retired from the NOAA Corps after twenty years of government service, first as a Navy pilot, then as a NOAA pilot. Please join her NOAA and CINMS colleagues in wishing her the best of luck with her future endeavors and congratulating her on her retirement and distinguished career! CINMS is working with the NMSP West Coast Region, the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center, and the NOAA Corps to identify future long-term options for sanctuary aircraft and pilots.

RESEARCH & MONITORING

2006 Sanctuary Research Summary Available

The sanctuary's 2006 Annual Research Summary is now available online at: <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/res/pdf/summary06.pdf>. This publication highlights the research of CINMS' productive partnerships with universities, government agencies, private institutions, and non-profit organizations. Twelve projects are summarized by researchers: eight marine reserves monitoring projects, two site characterization projects, and three protected resource monitoring projects. Among the many exciting research highlights from 2006 are: reports of high recruitment of kelp bass but low recruitment of rockfish, an increase in abundance of warm water species as a result of an anomalous warm water event in summer 2006, the establishment of two successful pilot projects that are collaborations between fishermen and scientists, and the continued recovery of Xantus's murrelets as a result of rat eradication at Anacapa Island. Review the report for more details.



Research and Monitoring Activities

Multi-disciplinary Research Trip

The research field season at CINMS is springing into action after the winter slow down. Channel Islands National Park (CINP or park) biologists began their spring sampling of rocky intertidal habitat with trips on R/V *Shearwater* to Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands March 14-17th. Since 1982, biologists have been monitoring twenty-one sites at the islands to record changes in populations and communities. Led by Dan Richards (CINP Biologist), they use an array of sampling techniques, including photoplots, transects, and timed searches to monitor abundances of invertebrates and algae. In a display of cooperative scientific effort and resource sharing, seabird and plant researchers joined the trip for transportation to the islands. Seabird researcher Josh Adams monitored Cassin's auklets nesting on offshore rocks at Santa Cruz and San Miguel islands. In addition, botanists completed vegetation monitoring at Anacapa Island.

Restored Eelgrass Bed Thriving at Anacapa Island

A restored eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) bed is thriving at Frenchy's Cove on Anacapa Island, six years after the non-profit organization Santa Barbara Channelkeeper initiated restoration efforts in the sanctuary. On April 1st, Jessie Altstatt (Channelkeeper Science Director), and Penny Owens (Channelkeeper Education Coordinator and Biologist) surveyed the eelgrass beds with Dani Lipski (CINMS Research Assistant). The divers observed a lush eelgrass bed where vegetation had been absent for about fifteen years. This historic eelgrass



A juvenile vermillion rockfish (*Sebastes miniatus*) in a restored eelgrass bed at Frenchy's Cove, Anacapa Island.

Photo: Jessie Altstatt.

location has now been restored and is spreading to nearby sites. The divers counted new seedlings and recorded fish and invertebrate abundance. Among other species of fish, three species of rockfish recruits and kelp bass recruits were observed in the eelgrass bed, attesting to the nursery value of this habitat. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper plans to continue monitoring this site and to expand their projects in the sanctuary.

Researchers Complete White Abalone Survey

A multi-agency research team spent April 4th and 5th on R/V *Shearwater* surveying white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*), the only federally endangered marine invertebrate. Divers from the sanctuary, park, and California Department of Fish and Game surveyed sites in the sanctuary and along the mainland where white abalone were historically found. Researchers from the White Abalone Recovery Team hoped to take genetic samples and sample animals for the presence of a pathogen that causes withering foot syndrome, a potentially fatal abalone disease. The team found no white abalone and only small numbers of other abalone species. Once abundant at the Channel Islands, abalone are now uncommon (except red abalone at San Miguel Island) as a result of disease and overfishing. Research and recovery efforts continue, including artificial propagation of white abalone in an aquaculture facility.

Cassin's Auklets Nesting Surveys

Cassin's auklets have not yet begun annual nesting activity at Prince Island, a small island just off San Miguel Island. Seabird researcher Josh Adams and sanctuary staff made the crossing to the sanctuary's westernmost island on the R/V *Shearwater* on April 9, 2007 to monitor the nesting status of Cassin's auklets. The group did not observe any eggs, but did see evidence of nest occupancy. Cassin's auklets' breeding season usually occurs between March and June, but is highly dependent on availability of prey (small crustaceans, squid, and fish), which is related to oceanographic conditions. A trip is scheduled for later in the month to check again for nesting birds. Prince Island serves as a productive nesting ground for a variety of seabirds including auklets, cormorants, and gulls. In 2006, endangered brown pelicans nested on the island for the first time in over 50 years. The site is being evaluated by CINP and the Montrose Restoration Trustee Council for restoration efforts that would enhance seabird nesting habitat.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Research and Citizen Science

State of California Harmful Algal Bloom Study

CINC volunteers continue to conduct plankton tows on board the R/V *Shearwater* as part of a statewide study on Harmful Algal Blooms. They conduct the tows during Plumes and Blooms research cruises, which focus on sediment plumes and algae blooms, and are scheduled throughout the year.

Anacapa Island Larval Settlement Study

Michael Moss (CINP Biologist) has trained several CINC volunteers to assist with a benthic larval settlement study with Channel Islands National Park and UCSB. The volunteers collect samples two times per month at Anacapa Island. They will also be on board the R/V *Shearwater* for several seabird monitoring trips.

Spatial Analysis and Assessment of Non-consumptive Uses of California's National Marine Sanctuaries

Ten CINC volunteers will complete a land-based, half-day training exercise on April 27th to become survey enumerators. The training will cover use of a custom Oceanmap GIS program, survey protocols, and safety issues. The volunteers must also complete a brief online course to fulfill institutional review board requirements (about two hours required). From May 2007 through September 2007, they will conduct intercept surveys of private boaters in the Channel Islands using the R/V *Shearwater* as a platform. They will assist the study team during weekend surveys in the Channel Islands by enumerating spatial intercept surveys using Oceanmap, providing guided tours of the R/V *Shearwater*, and answering questions about the natural environment and the NMSP. This work is part of a multi-year spatial analysis and assessment of non-consumptive uses of California's national marine sanctuaries.

Blue and Humpback Whale Photographic Identification

CINC volunteers participated in training on April 3rd to conduct photographic identification of blue and humpback whales. Volunteers collect data in cooperation with Cascadia Research Collective, the primary source for population and distribution trends of blue and humpback whales in California waters. They collect data opportunistically on board whale watch vessels departing out of Santa Barbara Harbor and Ventura Harbor.

For more information about the CINC please see p. 10, and see p. 13 for a citizen science report from the field!

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, & OUTREACH

Partnership for the Americas Fellowship

The NMSP has nominated Laura Francis (CINMS Education Coordinator) as a candidate for a three-month intergovernmental exchange program in Chile with the Partners of the Americas program (<http://www.partners.net>). Francis will travel to Valparaiso, Chile in the late summer/early fall. While there, she will work on several projects including assistance with developing management plans for some newly designated marine protected areas (MPAs), helping to develop education and outreach programs, supporting planning for a South American MPA manager training program, and helping to develop partnerships between Chilean and U.S. marine protected areas that focus on seabird protection.

Special Events

2007 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series

The 2007 lecture series continues to feature fascinating Channel Islands topics. Christine Hamilton (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist,) was the March speaker. Her presentation highlighted the natural history of the Xantus's murrelet and its recovery at the Channel Islands. This small, rare seabird has a world population of less than 39,000 birds, and a very limited breeding distribution, nesting only on the Channel Islands and on islands off the west coast of Baja California, Mexico. April's lecture featured Steven Schwartz (U.S. Navy Archaeologist), who told the story of a young Native American woman whose 18 years alone on San Nicolas Island inspired author Scott O'Dell to write the Newberry Award-winning classic *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Juana Maria, the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island, is arguably one of the most famous people associated with the Channel Islands. However, the true facts of her story are mired in a mix of facts, fiction, and legend. In his presentation, Schwartz revealed the real story of the Lone Woman and her people, which he had assembled over the past two decades of research on the Channel Islands. The May lecture will feature Dr. Peter Sharpe (Institute for



Wildlife Studies), who will speak about bald eagle restoration on the Channel Islands.

The sanctuary, park, and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum jointly sponsor the "From Shore to Sea" lecture series in an effort to further the understanding of research on the Channel Islands and surrounding waters. The programs are free and open to the public. The lectures take place at 7:00 p.m. on one Tuesday and Wednesday per month, with Tuesday lectures at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Munger Theatre, and Wednesday lectures at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center. For upcoming lectures please refer to the sanctuary calendar on p. 19, or for the complete schedule of 2007 lectures please visit the sanctuary's From Shore to Sea web page:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html>

CINMS Teacher At Sea

CINMS Education Coordinators Julie Bursek and Laura Francis are currently reviewing applications for the CINMS Teacher At Sea program that will take place June 19th-21st on a Xantus's murrelet cruise. The selection process should be completed by early May. For more information, please visit

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/tas.html>.

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) May Survey

Laura Francis will be representing the sanctuary on board a REEF fish survey trip to the sanctuary May 2-4, 2007 on the R/V *Shearwater*. The May survey is part of REEF's annual nearshore fish monitoring project. This will be the fifth year of the project. Data collected during these cruises will potentially help the sanctuary evaluate the status of fish populations at sites both inside and outside of the state marine reserves. For more information visit www.reef.org.

Meetings

Santa Barbara Educators Roundtable

Laura Francis co-chaired a Santa Barbara Educators Roundtable meeting on March 13th. The Roundtable is a consortium of twenty-five educators from learning environments found outside of the classroom and dedicated to lifelong learning in history, technology, natural history, art, and the life sciences. Francis was also the lead in developing the March 2007 Santa Barbara News Press "Plugged In" page, focusing on the

Island of the Blue Dolphins story by Scott O'Dell. Roundtable members publish Plugged In, a full-color educational page for young readers, once per month.

California Signage Plan

On April 20th, Laura Francis participated in a California Signage Plan meeting to begin developing signs during fiscal year 2007. The group reviewed the process and protocols used last year for sign development, came up with suggestions for streamlining the process this year, and created a budget and timeline for this year's signs. Laura Francis and Julie Bursek will spend the next couple of months prioritizing signs and contacting potential partners for this year.

Teacher Enrichment Adventure Watershed Education and Training Program (TEAWET) Advisory Committee Meeting

On February 26th, Laura Francis participated in a TEAWET Advisory meeting to discuss upcoming teacher workshops and a field trip planned aboard the R/V *Shearwater* in June. The TEAWET program is a NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program funded professional development project for teachers, which focuses on watershed issues in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Participating teachers discover new ways to use inquiry and the local environment to teach science, and how to use the watershed, from mountaintops to creeks to beaches, as a context for teaching social studies, art, language skills, math and other disciplines.

Workshops

Channel Mappers Teacher Workshop

Laura Francis and Natalie Senyk (CINMS Scientific Advisor) assisted with teaching a Channel Mappers workshop for teachers and educators on March 10-11. Channel Mappers is a B-WET funded initiative offered by the Ventura County Office of Education and the Center for Image Processing in Education, in collaboration with CINMS, and the UCSB Marine Science Institute. During the workshop, middle and high school teachers learned how to use geographic information systems (GIS) as a tool that allows students to examine scientific information in ways that are not possible with textbooks, video, interactive multimedia, and Internet Web pages. The workshop was a great opportunity to learn how to integrate inquiry-based learning aided by technology into science, social studies,



and history instruction. With GIS, students will be able to travel the oceans, conduct research on marine science topics, and learn how to take action to help protect the ocean resources at their doorstep.

Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

The MERITO Academy Pilot Program

The MERITO Academy Pilot Program is a partnership between the CINMS and Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute (CIMRI) in collaboration with several organizations. The goal of the MERITO Academy program is to build sanctuary stewardship and increase understanding of ocean-related threats among the 330 participating fifth through eighth grade students of underserved and culturally diverse communities in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The program consists of teacher training on the in-class use of the MERITO Academy curriculum, which is aligned to California Education Standards, and two student field trips led by CINMS and MERITO Academy staff. The first round of field trips focuses on watershed connections to the ocean and understanding runoff pollution. The second field trip series focuses on conservation activities and scientific monitoring techniques that enhance students' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the coastal and ocean environments.

MERITO Academy Field Trips

MERITO Academy field experiences reinforce the in-class information students receive from their teachers who participate in the MERITO Academy Educators Training Workshop. The MERITO Academy is a marine education and conservation program partly funded by NOAA's B-WET grant program. For more information on the MERITO Academy contact Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov. Descriptions of recent field trips follow.

Between February 24th and April 20th, 2007, the MERITO Academy program focused on coastal and island habitats and long-term coastal habitat monitoring protocols. Rocio Lozano-Knowlton (CINMS Bilingual Education and Outreach Specialist) coordinated and led, with the assistance of CINMS and CIMRI staff, a number of excursions for the 330 participating students who reside in Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura or Oxnard cities.



Eighth grade students from Carpinteria Middle school conduct sand crab monitoring at Frenchy's Cove for the MERITO Academy. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

On Feb 22nd, Laura Francis and Shannon Newby (MERITO Academy Program Manager), in collaboration with the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division, hosted 32 fifth grade English Language Learner (ELL) students from Harding Elementary in a Bonnet Park fostering experience. The students participated in the park clean up, tested the water quality of Mission Creek and planted native plants donated by Santa Barbara City in an effort to adopt the park as part of their MERITO Academy experiences.

On Feb. 27th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton led a group of 25 eighth grade students from Community Day Middle school on a field trip to Santa Barbara's Coil Oil Point Reserve, where students assisted the reserve staff in removing a large amount of invasive ice plant. The students also conducted LiMPETS sand crab and rocky inter tidal monitoring.

On March 14th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton and Andrea Moe (Island Packers Education Coordinator) led a group of 65 fifth grade ELL students from Santa Barbara's Cesar Chavez Charter School on a field trip to Anacapa Island. At historical Frenchy's Cove, the students monitored the sandy beach in search of sand crabs, and explored the magnificent tide pools while learning about marine invertebrates and island ecology.

On March 16th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, Claire Fackler, and Tina Reed (CINMS Administrative Support Coordinator) led a group of 63 fifth grade ELL students from Oxnard's Drifill Elementary to Leo Carrillo State

Park to conduct LiMPETS sand crab and rocky intertidal monitoring techniques.



Fifth grade students from Cesar Chavez School conduct rocky intertidal monitoring at Frenchy's Cove, Anacapa Island, as part of the MERITO Academy. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

On March 20th, 65 fifth grade students from the Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education had first hand experience with plankton at Oxnard's College Marine Education Center (MEC). The students learned how to construct a plankton net, collected plankton at the Channel Islands Harbor, and use a microscope (many for the first time) to identify key species. The group ended their visit to the MEC with the MERITO Academy food chain game.

On March 22nd, 60 fifth grade ELL students from Harding Elementary helped remove a considerably large amount of ice plant from East Anacapa Island. Sarah Chaney (CINP Restoration Ecologist), Andrea Moe (Island Packers Education Coordinator), and Rocío Lozano-Knowlton led the student restoration work.

Bilingual Outreach: CINMS at Earth Day Festival in Oxnard

On April 14th, for the third year in a row, the CINMS MERITO program reached over 4,000 people, over 60% of whom were of Hispanic background, during the Oxnard Earth Day Festival. Rocío Lozano-Knowlton and CINC volunteers provided bilingual information (printed and spoken) to the public about sanctuary resources, programs, and ocean protection. Noemi Estrella's (MERITO Intern) watershed model demonstrations attracted a large number of Hispanic

families with children who learned about runoff pollution, and how we can all contribute to ocean protection by changing a few practices at home.

Channel Islands Argonauts Program

The Channel Islands Argonauts (Argonauts) are nineteen fourth to eighth grade level students selected to advocate for ocean protection through their participation at community events and conservation efforts in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The selected students are from Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura, and Oxnard. They were selected earlier this year based on the quality of their application essays, and on their leadership profiles as compared with those of other applicants. The Argonaut program is part of the B-WET sponsored Channel Islands Live! Program, which is a partnership of CINMS, CINP, and the Ventura County Office of Education. Rocío Lozano-Knowlton is coordinating the Argonauts program in collaboration with Cliff Rodriguez.

Argonaut Environmental Poster Presentations

The nineteen Argonauts presented their poster projects with marine environmental messages to their peers and families on Tuesday March 20th at the park's visitors center auditorium. The students presented amazingly well developed themes, including environmental issues of local, national or international relevance such as establishment of marine protected areas, by-catch, global warming, marine debris, and urban runoff.



Argonauts explaining their poster projects to the public at the Oxnard Earth Day Festival. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

Argonauts at Oxnard Earth Day Festival

On April 14th, the fourteen fourth to fifth grade Argonauts who reside in Ventura County actively advocated for ocean protection by sharing their knowledge and poster projects with the public who attended Oxnard's Earth day festival. The posters covered themes including marine debris, runoff pollution, global warming, by-catch, marine reserves, and kelp forests. The illustrative poster projects and eloquent young speakers attracted many people to the booth, including community leaders such as State Assembly Member Pedro Nava, who personally listened to several students' short presentations, and congratulated them all. CINC volunteers also participated in the event.



Assemblymember Pedro Nava with Channel Islands Argonauts students and organizers at Earth Day event in Oxnard (2007). Photo: Cliff Rodriguez.

Argonauts at Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival

On April 22nd, the five fifth to eighth grade Argonauts who reside in Santa Barbara County exhibited their poster projects during the South Coast Earth Day Festival in Santa Barbara. Despite the cold, rainy conditions event organizers report that approximately 8,000 people attended the event. This year's theme focused on global warming and ways to reverse effects of cataclysmic climate change. The Argonauts' poster projects addressed various environmental issues or Channel Islands resources, such as sharks and rays, gray whale migration, island fox, and Santa Barbara Channel watershed health.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Volunteer Program

CINC members are a group of specially trained volunteer ocean stewards dedicated to educating passengers on board vessels visiting the sanctuary and park. Members provide education about the unique marine life found in sanctuary and park waters to thousands of local residents, tourists, and school children annually. CINC volunteers also participate in numerous local outreach events and collect valuable research on marine mammals and other important sanctuary and park resources. This program is made possible through a partnership with participating boat operators out of Santa Barbara Harbor, Ventura Harbor, and Channel Islands Harbor.

March and April Whale Watch Vessel Excursions

Santa Barbara's *Condor Express* led whale watching trips three times daily in March and April. The Santa Barbara Sailing Center's *Double Dolphin* sailed twice daily four times per week, and once daily three times per week. Captain Don's Whale Watch boat *Harbor Queen* ran twice daily during the week and once on weekend days in March and early April, with trips twice daily during the week, and once on weekend days thereafter.

Island Packers had 43 trips from Ventura Harbor in March and nine in April, and 24 from Channel Islands Harbor in March and five in April. Channel Islands Sportfishing's *Speedtwin* completed twice-daily whale watching trips out of Channel Islands Harbor in March. Both vessels discontinued whale watching trips for the season in April.

Each vessel canceled trips on several days due to high winds and swells. CINC volunteers attended a total of 261 whale watching trips in March and 154 in April.

This is the tail end of the gray whale season, and many humpback whales have been observed in the Santa Barbara Channel, as well as a minke whale, and a sperm whale washed ashore at Isla Vista. CINC volunteers have also seen a raft of 14 sea otters twice off the Santa Barbara coast.

March and April Island Hike Programs

CINC island hike naturalists participated in four Island Packer trips to Anacapa Island from Ventura in March and two in April, along with seven trips from Channel Islands Harbor in March and seven in April. In addition, certified naturalists participated in ten trips to Santa Cruz Island at Scorpion Anchorage in March and thirteen in April, and one trip to Prisoners Harbor in each March and April. The only other naturalist led trip was to Santa Rosa in April.

Island Hike Naturalist Training

There are currently 35 CINC volunteers certified to lead hikes at the Channel Islands. The remaining naturalists who attended this year's training are now "shadowing" seasoned volunteers on island hikes as part of the certification process. The sanctuary and park continue to increase the number of CINC volunteers trained to lead island hikes to improve coverage during the busy spring and summer season with Island Packers and Truth Aquatics.

CINC Volunteers Prepare for Blue and Humpback Whale Watching Season

On April 17th Dr. Charles Rennie III (Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Curator Emeritus of Vertebrate Zoology) will present at the CINC monthly in-service training session. Dr. Rennie will discuss the biology of blue and humpback whales. Sanctuary and park volunteer naturalists provide interpretation on board public whale watch tours during the summer season.

Public Outreach

Aquarium of the Pacific Hosts Special Event

Ocean technology was on full view at the Aquarium of the Pacific's special event on Saturday, March 24th in Long Beach, California. NMSP staff and CINC volunteers hosted a large booth at the aquarium's main entrance. With approximately 7,000 visitors coming through the doors that day, the sanctuary booth and children's table were heavily visited with children making marine life bracelets and sea otter puppets, while adults learned about the National Marine Sanctuary System, ROVs, and research in America's national marine sanctuaries. Throughout the day staff and volunteers interacted with visitors, providing them with information about advanced marine technologies, how to get involved through NMSP volunteer programs, and exciting students with marine technology careers.

CINMS Invited to Participate in the "Second Annual Channel Islands Harbor Safe Boating Day"

The sanctuary has been invited to participate in the "Second Annual Channel Islands Harbor Safe Boating Day" in Oxnard on May 12th. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadron, Oxnard Fire Department, Sheriff Department, Channel Islands Harbor Department, local yacht clubs, marinas, and other entities are coordinating the event as part of the 2007 North American Safe Boating Campaign. Activities will include safety demonstrations, free vessel tours, air, sea, and fire rescue demonstrations, tours of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Blacktip*, and agency booths with information for boaters of all types. Shauna Bingham (CINMS Volunteer Program and Outreach Coordinator) is representing the sanctuary on the planning committee for this event and attended a meeting on March 15, at the U.S. Coast Guard Station Channel Islands.

Sanctuary to Partner with California Department of Fish and Game on Invasive Species Outreach Plan

CINMS resource protection and outreach staff have been contacted by the California Department of Fish and Game to join forces on a campaign to educate boaters about the invasive kelp *Undaria pinnatifida*. This invasive Asian kelp was first documented in southern California in the spring of 2000. It has since spread from Los Angeles to Long Beach Harbors, Catalina Island, and as far north as Monterey Harbor. *Undaria* may displace native species and the potential exists for boaters to spread it to the sanctuary and California state Marine Reserves. The Department of Fish and Game would like to collaborate on an outreach plan that may include press releases, local radio programs, slip holder inserts, harbor signage, posters for marine stores, and articles in local marina newspapers.

El Camino School Family Science Night

On February 27th, an experienced CINC volunteer manned a booth at El Camino School Family Science Night in Santa Barbara. He shared information about the Santa Barbara Channel and the Channel Islands, as well as a whale tail matching activity which helps students understand the application of marine science to an endangered species. Attendance was estimated at 100 persons.

Channel Islands Harbor Celebration of Whales Festival

On March 4th, the sanctuary attended the 11th Annual Channel Islands Harbor Celebration of Whales Festival at Fisherman's Wharf in Oxnard. The Oxnard College Marine Education Center and Aquarium, Ventura County Maritime Museum, and CINC volunteers hosted the festival, which included activities for between 2,000 and 3,000 persons. Whale watching excursions were offered during the festival, which also featured interpretation by sanctuary volunteers.

Patagonia's "Oceans as Cinema" Reception

On March 8th, CINMS staff and volunteers raised awareness about the sanctuary with an information table for Patagonia employees, families, and local environmental organizations at Patagonia Headquarters in Ventura. The reception featured a surf film "Single Fin Yellow" after the opening reception. Regional NMSP staff distributed information about the Thank You Ocean Campaign and Ocean Communicator's Alliance during the event. This event was part of Patagonia's Oceans as Wilderness 2006–07 environmental campaign devoted to the oceans.

Keep Our Seas Plastic Free Festival

On March 10th the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Ty Warner Sea Center and the Community Environmental Council sponsored a day of crafts, movies, a free raffle, and educational activities that focused on the impacts of plastic debris on our oceans. The event featured ongoing screenings of "Our Synthetic Seas," a 22-minute film that documents the groundbreaking research conducted by the Algalita Marine Research Foundation regarding the exponential buildup of plastic debris in the world's oceans. During the event citizens could exchange their personal collections of plastic bags for a durable canvas tote. Sanctuary materials were distributed during the event, which was made possible by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Point Mugu State Park Whale Festival

CINC volunteers represented the sanctuary at the 11th Annual Point Mugu State Park Whale Festival on March 11th. The Santa Monica Mountains Natural History Association and the Ventura County Star sponsored the event, which was held at Point Mugu State Park in Malibu. The event celebrates the annual migration of the gray whale and its successful return from the brink of extinction with live entertainment, marine conservation

information booths, whale-watching stations, and arts and crafts for children. The CINC volunteers educated thousands of participants about the sanctuary and park.

Monte Vista School Science Night

On March 15th, CINC volunteers represented the sanctuary and park at the Monte Vista School Science Night. The volunteers displayed information about the Channel Islands and taught K-6 students about sanctuary and park monitoring and resource protection programs through hands-on activities, including whale photo-identification, and identification of common terrestrial and marine species found at the islands.

Ventura County Science Fair Career Expo

The sanctuary and park participated in the Ventura County Science Fair Career Expo on April 18th, at Seaside Park in Ventura. Nearly 1,000 students participated in the Career Expo, an interactive expo with a strong focus on local industry. The Ventura County Science Fair brought together students, teachers, and scientists from around the county to develop in students an awareness of the importance of science in their lives and to cultivate students' interest in science. The sanctuary and park provided students with hands-on activities and information about resource protection programs and research conducted at the Channel Islands.

Earth Day Celebrations

The sanctuary was involved in several Earth Day celebrations this year. The sanctuary and NOAA Fisheries partnered for a third year on a NOAA booth at the Aquarium of the Pacific's Earth Day Celebration on April 21-22nd, in Long Beach. In 2006, over 12,000 people attended the event. This year the Aquarium hosted an E-waste event and provided demonstrations that promote environmental stewardship. On April 22nd, the sanctuary and park hosted hands-on demonstrations at the Santa Barbara Earth Day celebration. The Community Environmental Council and the UCSB Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management hosted this year's celebration. This year's theme was "Global Warming: Change Begins with Learning." Over 5,000 people attended this event in 2006. As noted on p. 10, Argonauts provided information about Channel Islands resources and resource protection issues at both the Santa Barbara and Oxnard Earth Day festivals.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Field Report, April, 2007

What an experience I recently had helping John Calambokidis with humpback whale research in the Pacific Ocean offshore from Nicaragua, Central America. Calambokidis is a Researcher and co-founder of the Cascadia Research Collective, a non-profit scientific and education organization based in Olympia, Washington. The whale photo identification work that we CINC volunteers conduct in the Santa Barbara Channel is also a part of Calambokidis' work at the Cascadia Research Collective.

In Nicaragua we conducted our research between the Port of Corinto and the Gulf of Fonseca. The first day we went out to sea we had to turn back at midday due to extreme high winds. Luckily, we were drenched by 82 degree ocean spray, and our captain was an excellent navigator. There is quite a contrast between the 25-foot boat we used in Nicaragua, and the luxury of the CX 72-foot catamaran we use in the Santa Barbara Channel. Subsequent days at sea showed me the magical nature of the tropical Pacific: deep blue in color, massive long swells, like a vibrating, heavy, nurturing quilt on which our boat rode. In addition to visually searching for whales, every couple of miles Calambokidis would stop the boat to listen for whale vocalization with a single hydrophone lowered to a ten meter depth. When we heard whales (which is quite unbelievable), we then used a stereo hydrophone system to determine the direction of the calling whale and move the boat to within visual range of it. At every stop we filled out a Marine Mammal Sighting Report similar to the one CINC volunteers use in the Santa Barbara Channel. We sighted between 15-20 humpbacks. We won't know the number of individual whales we observed until researchers compare them with whale identification information in the Cascadia Research Collective database.

I learned that of the whales identified off Central America, 84% were re-sighted offshore between California and Washington. Furthermore, humpback whales seen off Central America were re-sighted disproportionately off southern California, while those from mainland Mexico tended to be seen offshore between northern California and Washington. Another thing I learned is that understanding whales in the North Pacific is complicated because of multiple summer feeding and winter breeding areas.

Calambokidis has been conducting humpback whale research in Costa Rica for the last ten years, but this is only the second year that he has extended the research to waters off Nicaragua, and thus its importance. To learn more about this humpback whale research visit the Cascadia Research Collective web site at: <http://www.cascadiaresearch.org/>.

Finally, imagine yourself eating lunch in a small boat, gently rocking side-to-side in the mighty blue Pacific, being serenaded by gentle giants. You can't see the humpback whales, but you can hear them all around you. They fill your ears with the sweetest melody, and touch your heart.

- Maria Ornelas
Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer

CHANNEL ISLANDS: STORIES FROM THE PAST

On November 13, 1926 the U.S. Coast Guard reported on rum running at the Channel Islands with the capture of the *Wampas*, aka *Grey Ghost*, and reprinted below:

At 10:30 a.m., November 13, the CG-254, Boatswain (T) L.H. Williams, Officer-in-charge, while on patrol off Cochies [sic] Prietos, Santa Cruz Island, sighted the fast motor-boat "A-1370", powered with two 300 H.P. Sterling engines and known as the "GREY GHOST". This boat was about 1600 yards distant when sighted and the CG-254 gave chase at once, firing one bland one-pounder and two service charges across her bow. The "A-1370" failed to heave-to and it was then apparent to the Officer-in-charge, CG-254, that she was loaded with contraband and endeavoring to escape. The Officer-in-charge fired 59 rounds of one-pounders making six direct hits, one through her pilot house and another at her starboard waterline, doing considerable damage and partially disabling the "A-1370". At the same time Mo.M.M.2c Edward O. Caliouette manned the machine gun from the top of the pilot-house, expending ten magazines and making numerous hits. The "A-1370" was now disabled to such an extent that it headed for the Island to avoid sinking and was run ashore at 10:50 a.m. on a rocky beach about one and one-half miles east of Valley Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island.

The Officer-in-charge, CG-254, immediately lowered the dinghy and boarded the rum-runner. A moderate surf was running at the time and the rum-runner was swamped and partially submerged. It was ascertained that the "A-1370" was loaded with approximately two hundred (200) sacks of imported whiskey, two of which were removed and placed aboard the CG-254 for evidence of violation of Section 593-A, Tariff Act of 1922. Near the wreck two oak half-barrels (about twenty gallons each) of liquor were found floating and they were also placed aboard the CG-254.

The CG-254 then reported the seizure to the base by radio-telephone and requested the assistance of another patrol boat with a dory, a dory being more suitable for unloading the beached rum-runner. The CG-254, while standing by the rum-runner for four hours, endeavored to unload or tow off the beached vessel from the rocks but this could not be accomplished. END

MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

Education and Outreach

Robert Schwemmer (CINMS Maritime Heritage Coordinator) is working with Santa Barbara Maritime Museum education staff to develop a marine archaeology lesson plan. This team is creating a canvas rendering of the shipwreck site of the passenger-cargo steamer *Cuba*, lost at San Miguel Island in 1923. The museum will use the scaled-down representation of the wreck site to give students a hands-on experience using the fundamental tools and measuring protocols that marine archaeologists use to record artifacts underwater. Students will also learn how the method of trilateration is used to reproduce the site map after the measurements have been recorded underwater. (Trilateration is a method of determining the relative positions of artifacts using the geometry of triangles.) The *Cuba* exhibit at the museum provides a simulated three-dimensional view of the shipwreck site, and a model of the steamer pre-loss. This exhibit will serve as part of the curriculum.

The development of a new shipwreck exhibit featuring the *Winfield Scott* will highlight some of the first person accounts of the more than 500 people stranded on the "rock" or Anacapa Island for eight days after the loss of their ship in 1853. An exhibit committee is being formed and volunteers who would be interested in assisting with the project are welcome to contact Robert Schwemmer (robert.schwemmer@noaa.gov) or Santa Barbara Maritime Museum Curator Aaron Micallef (amicallef@sbmm.org).

For more information about the shipwrecks discussed above please visit these web pages:

Shipwreck *Cuba*

channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/cuba1.html

Shipwreck *Winfield Scott*

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/winfieldscott1.html>

Winfield Scott Survivor Asa Cyrus Call

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/cr/journal.html>

Schwemmer joined film director John Brooks and traveled to the rarely visited Point Conception, referred to as the "Cape Horn of the Pacific" and western

gateway to the Santa Barbara Channel. Brooks is filming the region for an upcoming documentary for NOAA's 200th anniversary celebration. NOAA's historic connection to the region is in part due to George Davidson of the U.S. Coast Survey, who completed the first topographic chart of Point Conception in 1850. Six years later the first lighthouse was erected there, followed by a second lighthouse structure in 1881. Davidson came to the Pacific Coast early in 1850, when it was a new and difficult field, having been chosen for this special duty by Superintendent Bache. Today we are reminded of his discoveries that still carry his name in the west coast region: Davidson Seamount, recently explored by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; and the Davidson Current, which connects all the west coast national marine sanctuaries; just to name a few.



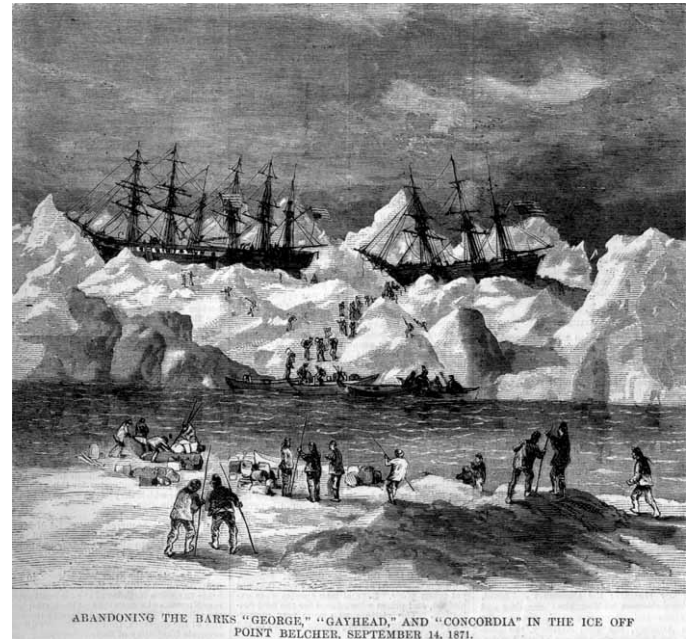
A NOAA 200th anniversary "Postcard From the Field" shows Robert Schwemmer with filmmaker John Brooks and son at the Pt. Conception light house. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

Regional Maritime Heritage Program

Since the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's expedition to record the site of the U.S. Navy's airship USS *Macon* off the Big Sur coastline, a very successful effort to share the project with the public is still going strong. To date, three academic papers have been presented with two more scheduled in 2007, twenty-four presentations with two more scheduled in 2007, and twelve articles published with two more scheduled in 2007 and 2008. One of the most recent articles titled "Return to the USS *Macon*" featured a ten-page article and the cover of *Aviation History Magazine*. For more information on the USS *Macon* expedition please visit:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions/2006macon/welcome.html>

Schwemmer completed the second phase of a historic study for shipwrecks associated with the 1871 whaling fleet disaster that occurred in the Arctic region of Alaska. The study supports a joint project of the NMSP Director's Office, NMSP West Coast and Pacific Islands regions, in collaboration with the NMSP's Maritime Heritage Program. Throughout the national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is a shared whaling heritage that links early whaling cultures as well as many submerged maritime heritage resources. The whaling fleet shipwrecks in Alaska, and the over 1,200 survivors who sailed for Hawai'i have direct links to the Pacific islands, west coast, and New England regions.



A Harpers Weekly illustration "Abandoning The Barks," published on December 2, 1871, depicts whaling crews moving to safer ground during the whaling fleet disaster in Alaska that year.

Schwemmer will be traveling to Monterey from May 17-18 to work with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff on that sanctuary's condition report. From May 24-26 he will be on travel to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary to participate in the Nautical Archaeology Society's underwater archaeology certificate program.

WEB SITE (<http://channelislands.noaa.gov>)

Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the CINMS web site.

Check out the marine reserves web section for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Establishment of Marine Reserves and Marine Conservation Areas at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/marineres/main.html> and
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/marineres/supplemental.html>.



The CINMS Teacher at Sea web site has been updated to offer the 2007 field season available at:
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/tas.html>.

The MERITO program web section of the CINMS site is now available for viewing at:
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/merito.html>.

Don't forget to check out our calendar of events to find out what's happening locally at:
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html>.

Upcoming Modification

The Marine Reserves Education web section is in the final stages of testing and set to launch in mid-May 2007. Discussions are in progress regarding west coast regional content development for the shipwreck database and additional audio podcasting for the Shore to Sea lecture series. The research section of the site is scheduled to host information on the Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE) program work over 2006.

Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Comments and suggestions can be sent to amy.cale@noaa.gov.



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS



Deputy Secretary of Commerce Visits CINMS

Deputy Secretary of Commerce Dr. David Sampson, along with his assistant Barron Bell, Michael Snyder of VADM Lautenbacher's policy staff, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Regional Administrator Rod McInnis, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau, and CINMS Deputy Superintendent Todd Jacobs spent February 28th touring the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Park. The group flew from Van Nuys Airport to Santa Barbara Island, and then flew over the sanctuary and park from East to West, landing on San Miguel Island. Once on San Miguel, they hiked to the NMFS

research station at Point Bennett, the site of one of the largest and most diverse pinniped rookeries in California. The group covered many sanctuary topics and had a pleasant exchange. Park staff did a great job hosting the event.

CINMS Superintendent Meets with Managers of Komodo Island, Indonesia

On March 12th, CINMS Superintendent Chris Mobley and CINP Superintendent Russell Galipeau met with Tamen Sitorus, Director of Komodo National Park, and Widodo Ramono, Director of External Affairs for the Nature Conservancy's Indonesia country program, at the

invitation of Dr. Lotus Vermeer, Director of the Nature Conservancy's Santa Cruz Island Project. Messrs. Sitorus and Ramono were interested in how the park, sanctuary, and conservancy are able to effectively coordinate and collaborate with each other and with other agencies. Komodo National Park, home of the Komodo dragon, faces similar multi-agency coordination challenges.

NMSP Brings Fishermen and Students Together

A number of fishermen are bringing their knowledge and history into classrooms throughout the Monterey Bay area with the new NMSP Fishermen in Classroom Program. The goal of the program is to give students a hands-on learning experience that provides them with "a day in the life" glimpse into who fishermen are and what exactly they do. The program reaches many students who do not have an opportunity to experience the marine environment first-hand, gives them a better understanding of the integral role of fishing in Monterey Bay's history, and teaches them what they can do to be better stewards of the Bay.

Marine Debris Bill (S. 362) Signed by President

President Bush signed into law the "Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act" on December 22, 2006. This bill establishes programs within NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard to identify, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its effects on the environment and navigational safety. For more information, visit www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/12/20061222-1.html <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/12/20061222-1.html>.

Federal Agency Report on Implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Executive Order Available for Fiscal Year 2005-2006

Seven federal agencies, including diverse programs supporting MPA planning and management, completed a biannual report on the status of implementation of Executive Order 13158 on MPAs. The Executive Order calls for NOAA and the Department of the Interior to lead the development of a national system of MPAs in cooperation with other federal, state, territorial, and tribal governments, as well as stakeholders. The report describes key milestones in this process and is posted at www.mpa.gov.

Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council

The signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Agreement and accompanying charter establishing the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council took place January 30th in Olympia, Washington. The ceremony capped a one-year effort to develop an intergovernmental structure for the participation of the Hoh Tribe, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, the Quinault Indian Nation, and the State of Washington to work together with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary on marine resource management issues of concern or interest to each sovereign entity. The Intergovernmental Policy Council is a ground-breaking agreement for NOAA and the NMSP. It builds on federal policies on tribal coordination and consultation, and the historic Centennial accord between Washington State and Indian Tribes. Representatives at the ceremony included Christine Gregoire (Washington Governor), Fawn Sharp (Quinault Business Committee President), Vivian Lee (Hoh Tribal Business Committee Chair), Russell Woodruff, Sr. (Quileute Tribal Council Chair), Ben Johnson, Jr. (Makah Tribal Council Chair), Billy Frank (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair), Scott Rayder (NOAA Chief of Staff), and Daniel J. Basta (NMSP Director).



NMSP Director Dan Basta recognizes Billy Frank Jr. (Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), for his leadership role in creating the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council. Photo: Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

New NOAA Report Shows Nation's Marine Sanctuaries Made Significant Gains in 2006

Learn about the NMSP's efforts to implement new measures to protect endangered whales in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, establish the largest marine conservation area in the world, and almost 100 other resource protection, science, and education accomplishments in the just released 2006 State of the

Sanctuaries Report. The annual report provides short vignettes on how the NMSP and its many partners are making a difference in marine conservation. The report is available on the NMSP web site:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>.

Bringing Oceans into Classrooms with Oceans for Life Lessons and Videos

The NMSP, in collaboration with the National Geographic Society, has launched a new series of marine education lesson plans highlighting cutting-edge research, maritime heritage, cultural resources, and environmental issues in our national marine sanctuaries. Designed for K-12 teachers and marine educators, the Oceans for Life series of lessons and videos gives students an opportunity to explore the history, biology, and ecology of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Through a multi-media approach, the twelve Oceans for Life lesson plans and complementary short videos will inspire ocean literacy and conservation through national marine sanctuaries, and promote bringing the ocean and environment into the classroom. For more information, please visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education>.

Digital Coast: Legislative Atlas Web Site Now Available

Coastal resource managers have a new web tool to help them better understand complex legislation and policy governing coastal and marine resources. Digital Coast: Legislative Atlas, developed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center, contains a searchable database of federal and state coastal and ocean legislation. On-line mapping provides visualization and analysis of "georegulations," which are spatial representations of federal and state legislation and jurisdictional boundaries. The project currently covers key Federal georegulations and agency jurisdictions for the ocean coasts of the continental U.S., and state georegulations for the Gulf of Mexico. Coming soon: federal laws for the entire U.S. and state laws in California, Hawaii, and the Northeast. For more information, visit the Digital Coast: Legislative Atlas Web site at:

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/legislativemap/>.



Top Ten Historical Events in the 200 Years of NOAA History (listed alphabetically):

- [1970s Conservation and Stewardship Legislation](#) (1972-1976): Ushered NOAA into a significantly increased regulatory role in resource management.
- [Earth Day 1970](#): Established the favorable political climate for enacting five pieces of 1970s conservation and stewardship legislation, thereby creating the "green" side of NOAA.
- [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill](#) (1989): stimulated passage of the Oil Pollution Control Act of 1990, thereby strengthening and enhancing NOAA's capacity to respond to and help reduce impacts from hazardous material spills.
- [Hurricane Katrina](#) (2005): demonstrated the capabilities of all elements of NOAA acting in concert to serve our nation in times of dire emergency.
- [National Marine Sanctuary System](#) (1975-2006): protected areas of U.S. marine and Great Lakes waters for their conservation, ecological, recreational, historical, aesthetic, scientific and educational value.
- [North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty](#) (1911): served as the forerunner and inspiration for laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and other NOAA stewardship legislation.
- [Storm of the Century](#) (1993): marked the first time that NOAA's Weather Service was able to forecast a storm of this magnitude five days in advance and provide storm and blizzard warnings two days in advance.
- [Founding of the Survey of the Coast](#) (1807): marked the beginnings of both the first science agency in an embryonic federal government and NOAA's oldest ancestor agency.
- [TIROS I](#) (1960): ushered in a new era of weather observations from space with the launch of the first meteorological satellite.
- [World War II](#) (1941-1945): transformed, more than any other event since their founding in 1807 and 1871, the technological, geographic, and social landscape of the Survey of the Coast and the Weather Bureau, two legacy agencies of today's NOAA.

Excerpt from:

<http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/events/welcome.html>

THREE-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

MAY	
May 6	<i>Santa Barbara Symphony "Island of the Blue Dolphins" Concert</i> For more information visit: http://www.thesymphony.org/FAMILY_CONCERTS.HTML
May 8, 9	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Dr. Peter Sharpe, Institute for Wildlife Studies <i>Bald Eagle Restoration on the Channel Islands</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Munger Theater, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura)
May 11-12	<i>Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Bio Blitz</i> For more information visit: http://www.sbbg.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.detail&recID=42
May 12	<i>2nd Annual Safe Boating Expo Channel Islands Harbor</i> For more information visit: http://www.channelislandsharbor.org/events.cfm
May 16	<i>Oxnard, California Welcome Center Grand Opening</i> For more information visit: http://www.visitwc.com/destinations/oxnard/index.php
May 17	<i>"Songs in the Key of Sea" CD/DVD Premiere Screening and Concert</i> Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. For more information visit: http://www.ocean.com/article.asp?locationid=1&resourceid=7990&ProdId=&CatId=1&TabID=&SubTabID=
May 18	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Casa Las Palmas (323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html
May 20	<i>Santa Barbara Children's Festival</i> 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Alameda Park, Santa Barbara For more information visit: http://www.fsacares.org/spotlight.htm
May 24	<i>Isla Vista School Science Fair</i> For more information visit: http://www.islavista.goleta.k12.ca.us/9899/
May 31	<i>Harding School Science Fair</i> For more information visit: http://www.sbceo.org/~harding/
JUNE	
Jun 12, 13	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Torben Rick, Southern Methodist University <i>Rising Seas and Shrinking Islands: Humans on the Channel Islands After the Ice Age</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Munger Theater, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura)
Jun 19-21	<i>CINMS Teacher At Sea Cruise</i> For more information visit: http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/tas.html
JULY	
Jul 10, 11	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Dr. Christy Semmens, Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) <i>Citizen Monitoring in the Marine Reserve Network</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Munger Theater, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura)
Jul 20	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html
Select May -- July Nature Sightings	Gray Whales (mid-February through May), Blue Whales (late-May through September), Humpback Whales (May through August), Xantus's murrelets (March through July), Pink-Footed Shearwaters and Sooty Shearwaters (May through October). For more nature sightings information visit: http://channelislands.noaa.gov/seasons/may.html . You can also record data about your own mammal sightings, as well as learn about past mammal sightings using our marine mammal sightings database: http://www.cisanctuary.org/mammals/ .

CINMS Staff

Santa Barbara Harbor Office

Christopher Mobley – *Superintendent*
Todd Jacobs – *Deputy Superintendent*
Amy Cale – *Web Developer*
Laura Francis – *Education Coordinator*
Sean Hastings – *Resource Protection Coordinator*
Charles Lara – *Vessel Operator*
Dani Lipski – *Research Assistant*
Sarah MacWilliams – *Management Plan Specialist*
Michael Murray – *Advisory Council and
Management Plan Coordinator*
Luman Moody – *Vessel Captain*
LTJG Kate Peet – *Operations Officer*
Robert Schwemmer – *Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*
Natalie Senyk – *Scientific Advisor*
Terrence Shinn – *Vessel Captain*
Ben Waltenberger – *Physical Scientist*
Rebecca Young – *Inventory/Database Coordinator*

Ventura County Field Office

Shauna Bingham – *Volunteer Program and Outreach
Coordinator*
Julie Bursek – *Education Coordinator*
Clare Fritzsche – *CINMS Volunteer Program & Administrative
Assistant*
Lorri Herr – *Program Support Specialist*
Rocio Lozano de Knowlton – *MERITO Coordinator*
Tina Reed – *Administrative Support Coordinator*

CINMS Interns

Michael S. Henry – *Policy, Planning, and Resource Protection
Intern*

NMSP West Coast Region Staff

William Douros – *Regional Superintendent*
Matt Brookhart – *Policy Coordinator*
Nicole Capps – *Management Support Specialist*
Dave Lott – *Operations Coordinator*

NMSP Staff

Columbine Culberg – *Ocean Etiquette Program Manager /
Liaison to Aquarium of the Pacific*
Claire Fackler – *West Coast Education Liaison*
Sarah Marquis – *West Coast Media Coordinator*

Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Donna Schroeder – *Acting Executive Director*

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary produces the Sanctuary Superintendent's Report in conjunction with bi-monthly Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Channel Islands National Park

To learn about Channel Islands National Park visit their web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage.htm>.

GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/involved.html>

Sign up for the CINMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its working groups:
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.html>

- CONTACT INFORMATION -

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